

REMARKS

This amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated July 9, 2003. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 were pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 8-12, and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Examiner further rejected claims 3, 5-7, 13, 14, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). By this amendment, claims 1, 9, 10, 16 and 20 are amended and claims 5 and 13 are cancelled without prejudice. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview on November 24, 2003. Applicant has submitted amendments in line with the discussion with the Examiner.

A typographical error was noticed in the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8. Applicant has corrected this typographical error in this paper in the section entitled Amendments to the Specification.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-12, and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Simes (U.S. Patent No. 5,546,291). Simes discloses a conversion kit assembly, which changes the appearance of a light bulb to a desired light bulb, such as a floodlight in the example of Fig. 1. (col 3, lines 44-50). Simes' conversion kit assembly includes a collar 18 "which is attached to

the light bulb 10..." (col. 3, lines 51-32.) "The collar 18 has a hollow interior in which the light bulb 10 is resiliently secured by a plurality of resilient prongs." (col. 3, lines 53-55) Thus, the collar is secured directly on to the light bulb. The combined light bulb and the conversion kit assembly may be mounted in a light fixture. (see Fig. 7 and col. 5, lines 45-63). Simes' conversion kit assembly converts the appearance of a light bulb into a different type of light bulb. Simes' assembly does not alter the light fixture itself.

Amended claim 1 recites "a first coupling region adapted to removably couple the extender with an outer portion of the base of the light fixture, wherein the outer portion of the base of the light fixture is spaced apart from the light bulb received within the light fixture." Support for this amendment is found in Fig. 3 and pages 5 and 6 of applicant's specification). In contrast to applicant's extender, Simes' collar attaches directly to the light bulb, not to the "base of the light fixture." Moreover, as amended, where first coupling region is adapted to removably couple the extender to the outer portion of the base of the light fixture, where the outer portion of the base of the light fixture "is spaced apart from the light bulb." Simes' collar attaches directly to the light bulb and not to an outer portion of a base, which is spaced apart from the light bulb. For at least this reason the examiner's rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Moreover, claims 2, 4 and 8 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 1.

Similarly, amended claim 9 recites a light fixture assembly including “a base having a rim, where the base is configured to be secured to a mounting surface” and “a socket extending from the base and adapted to receive a light bulb, where the socket and the light bulb are independent of the rim of the base.” In contrast, Simes discloses a conversion kit assembly including a collar that attaches to a light bulb. Simes does not disclose a light fixture assembly where the socket and the light bulb are independent of the rim of a base. For at least this reason, the examiner’s rejection of claim 9 should be withdrawn. Moreover, claims 10-12 and 15 depend from claim 9 and should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 9.

Applicant further amended claim 16 to recite a light fixture extender including a base mount “configured to selectively attach the extender to the base of the fixture without engaging a light bulb received within the light fixture.” In converting the appearance of the light bulb, Simes’ collar directly contacts the light bulb through the resilient prongs (described in col. 3, lines 54-60). Thus, applicant respectfully requests withdraw of the rejection of claim 16. Moreover, claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16 and should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 16.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 3 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simes. Applicant has cancelled claim 13 without prejudice.

As to claim 3, Simes discloses a conversion kit assembly. The Simes' disclosure is directed towards changing the appearance of a light bulb (such as to a floodlight). There is no teaching or suggestion in Simes to convert or alter the light fixture. Instead, Simes discloses a collar that may be secured to a light bulb via resilient prongs. The entire converted light bulb assembly may be installed into a light fixture (see Fig. 7 of Simes). Conversion of a light bulb to a different light bulb necessitates contact with the light bulb. Such references as Simes must be viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight vision afforded by the claimed invention. **Hodosh v. Block Drug Co., Inc.**, 786 F.2d 1136 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Claim 3 recites a first coupling region including a "base mount having a lip adapted to engage a portion of the base." Claim 3 depends from amended claim 1, which recites that the first coupling region is adapted to removably couple the extender to an outer portion of the base of the light fixture, where the outer portion is spaced apart from the light bulb. Simes does not disclose, teach or suggest a coupling region adapted to engage a portion of a light fixture base that is spaced apart from a light bulb. Thus, for at least this reason, applicant requests withdraw of the rejection of claim 3.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simes in view of Poyer (U.S. Patent No. 4,763,233). Applicant has cancelled claim 5 without prejudice.

Claims 6, 7, 14, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simes in view of Chiang (U.S. Patent No. 6,511,209). As discussed above, Simes disclose, teach or suggest the light fixture extender as recited in applicant's claims. The combination of Simes and Chiang does not teach, suggest or disclose all the recited elements of independent claims 1, 9, 16 and 20. For at least this reason, the rejection of amended independent claim 20 and dependent claims 6, 7, 14 and 19 should be withdrawn.

Additionally, it should be noted that Chiang discloses a light fixture having multiple layers including multiple heat sinks, shells, and fibrous material 102, etc. Chiang does not teach, disclose or suggest an extender that may be removably attached in a light fixture. There is no teaching or suggestion within Chiang to use vents or the like on such an extender. Moreover, Chiang does not disclose the use of vents to "enhance the aesthetic appearance of the light fixture" or to create a light design or display on the mounting surface (page 10, lines 18-21 of applicant's specification). For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully requests withdraw of the rejection of claims 6, 7, 14, 19 and 20.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

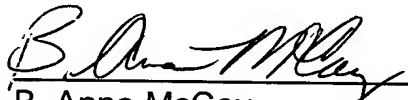
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Respectfully submitted,

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